

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 04017 231707Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /105 W
-----231711Z 008419 /43

P R 231630Z MAY 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2479
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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ACTION STR

PASS AGRI

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD OCON MTN
SUBJECT: US-AUSTRIAN MTN AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS

1. SUMMAY: US AND AUSTRIA HELD CONSULTATION MAY 17 ON
U.S. NOTIFICATIONS AGAINST AUSTRIA UNDER GROUP AGRICUL-
TURE "OTHER PRODUCTS" PROCEDURES. CONSULTATION PRO-
VIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING AUSTRIAN VARIABLE
LEVY AND QUOTA SYSTEMS APPLYING TO TH PRODUCTS NOTIFIED.
DESPITE FACT THAT AUSTRIAHAS NOT MADE ANY NOTIFICATIONS
UNDER GROUP AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES,
AUSTRIAN DEL WAS INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE ITEMS OF GENERAL
EXPORT INTEREST TO AUSTRIA. AUSTRIAN DEL LISTED BOVINE
MEAT, DIARY PRODUCTS, WINE, AND FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
AUSTRIAN DEL INDICATED IT WOULD PREFER A JOINT REPORT
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 04017 231707Z

WITH INITIAL DRAFT PREPARED BY THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. US DEL (KONEIG ET AL) NOTED AT OUTSET OF CONSUL-
TAIONS THAT U.S. NOTIFICATIONS (QR'S AND OTHER NTM'S)
WERE MADE WITHOUT PRJUDICE AS TO HOW THESE ITEMS MAY
EVENTUALLY BE NEGOTIATED, THAT THE NOTIFICATIONS ARE
INDICATIVE OF U.S. INTERESTS BUT ARE NOT REQUEST LISTS,

AND THAT THE U.S. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD ADDITIONAL ITEMS IN THE FUTURE. U.S. DEL ALSO NOTED THAT A REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GROUP AGRICULTURE AND ASKED FOR AUSTRIAN VIEW OF WHAT FORM REPORT SHOULD TAKE. AUSTRIAN DEL (SEGALLA AND CRACHEGG) REPLIED THAT AUSTRIA HAS NOT YET MADE NOTIFICATIONS UNDER GROUP AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES AND HAS PREFERRED TO LET THE COUNTRIES NOTIFYING AUSTRIA PREPARE REPORTS. HE SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT U.S. PREPARE THE REPORT, WHICH HE AGREED SHOULD BE SHORT AND NEUTRAL, AND THEN SUBMIT IT TO HIS DELEGATION FOR COMMENT SO THAT A JOINT REPORT COULD BE SENT TO THE GROUP AGRICULTURE.

3. LIVE POULTRY AND POULTRY MEAT. U.S. DEL STATED THAT U.S. IS MOST INTERESTED IN BABY CHICKS AND TURKEY MEAT AND ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF IMPORT SYSTEM APPLYING TO THESE PRODUCTS. RATHER THAN EXPLAINING THE OPERATION OF THE VARIABLE LEVY SYSTEM IN ANY DETAIL, AUSTRIAN DEL CALLED ATTENTION TO MTN/3E/DOC/6/ADD.8/REV.1 OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1975 WHICH HE SAID STILL DESCRIBES ACCURATELY THE VARIABLE LEVY SYSTEMS APPLYING TO ALL OF THE PRODUCTS NOTIFIED. AUSTRIAN DEL EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT VARIABLE LEVIES ARE APPLIED SO AS TO RAISE C.I.F. IMPORT PRICES TO THE LEVEL OF DOMESTIC PRICES. THE DOMESTIC PRICE, HE SAID, IS ESTABLISHED TO COVER PRODUCTION COSTS AND IS CHANGED INFREQUENTLY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE LEVY CANNOT BE LOWER THAN THE AUTONOMOUS (I.E. UNBOUND) CUSTOMS DUTY FOR A PARTICULAR PRODUCT OR, STATED ANOTHER WAY, EITHER THE DUTY OR THE LEVY IS APPLIED, WHICH-
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 04017 231707Z

EVER IS HIGHER. THUS, THE DUTY ACTS AS A FLOOR TO THE LEVY. AUSTRIAN DEL CONFIRMED DUTY INFORMATION (CONTAINED IN COMPUTER RUN FOR AUSTRIA PROVIDED BY FAS) FOR BABY CHICKS (01.05A1 SCHILLING EACH) AND TURK MEAT (02.02C-150 SCHILLINGS PER 100 KG). AUSTRIAN DEL ALSO STATED THAT THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT FOR LIVE POULTRY AND POULTRY MEAT HAS BEEN REMOVED (THOUGH A HEALTH CERTIFICATE IS STILL REQUIRED) AND THAT BABY CHICKS MAY BE IMPORTED DUTY AND LEVY-FREE WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE IF IMPORTED FOR BREEDING.

4. EGGS. U.S. DEL EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. IS MAINLY INTERESTED IN DRIED EGGS. AUSTRIAN DEL VERIFIED THAT IMPORTS OF THIS PRODUCT ARE SUBJECT TO A VARIABLE LEVY (NO SMALLER THAN THE AUTONOMOUS DUTY OF 280 SCHILLINGS PER 100 KG). HE ALSO VERIFIED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE USDA COMPUTER RUN THAT DRIED EGGS CAN BE IMPORTED DUTY AND LEVY-FREE IF FOR USE IN EGG-BASED FOOD PASTES, SUBJECT TO PERMISSION OF THE MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE.

5. CORN STARCH. AUSTRIAN DEL SAID THAT THE QUOTA ON CORN STARCH IS 270 METRIC TONS PER SIX MONTHS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRIA ONLY IMPORTED 19 TONS IN 1976 AND THAT WAS MOSTLY FOR RE-EXPORTATION. HE CONFIRMED THAT A VARIABLE LEVY IS APPLIED AND THAT ITS MINIMUM IS 165 SCHILLINGS/100 KG (I.E. THE AUTONOMOUS DUTY).

6. THE AUSTRIAN DEL SAID THAT DESPITE NOT HAVING NOTIFIED OTHER COUNTRIES OF AUSTRIA'S SPECIFIC INTERESTS IN AGRICULTURE, HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE IN GENERAL TERMS WHERE AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORT INTERESTS LIE. HE EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT NOT ALL THE ITEMS ARE NECESSARILY OF INTEREST TO AUSTRIA IN THE U.S. MARKET. THE LIST IS AS FOLLOWS: (1) BOVINE MEAT, (2) DAIRY PRODUCTS, (3) WINE (ESPECIALLY HIGH QUALITY), AND (4) FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (THE AUSTRIAN DEL OBSERVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MTN GE 04017 231707Z

SERVED, HOWEVER, THAT WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF JUICES, AUSTRIA PROBABLY HAS LIMITED INTEREST IN THE U.S. MARKET FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES). WALKER

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